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ABSTRACT

This report describes the Hispanic population in the United States in 2002 using data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. Results indicate that more than one in eight people in the United States are of Hispanic origin. Hispanics are more geographically concentrated than non-Hispanic Whites, and they are more likely to live inside central cities of metropolitan areas. Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be under age 18. Two in five Hispanics are foreign born. Hispanics live in family households that tend to be larger than those of non-Hispanic Whites. More than two in five Hispanics age 25 and older have not graduated from high school. Educational attainment varies among Hispanics. Hispanics are much more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be unemployed. Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites have different occupational distributions. Hispanic workers earn less than non-Hispanic white workers. Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live in poverty. (SM)

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# The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2002

*Population Characteristics*

Issued June 2003

P20-545

**Current Population Reports**

By
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and
G. Patricia de la Cruz

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This report describes the Hispanic population in the United States in 2002, providing a profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, such as geographic distribution, age, educational attainment, earnings, and poverty status. These characteristics are compared with those of the non-Hispanic White population, and because Hispanics are a heterogenous group, variability within the Hispanic population is also discussed.[1] The findings are based on data collected by the Census Bureau in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS).[2]

People of Hispanic origin were able to report their origin as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, or some other Latino origin on the CPS questionnaire.[3] Hispanics may be of any race.

## POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

### More than one in eight people in the United States are of Hispanic origin.

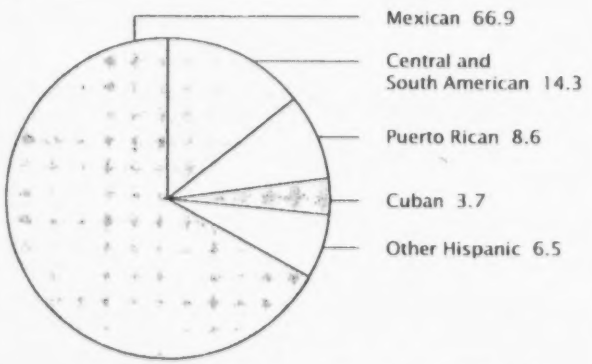
In 2002, there were 37.4 million Latinos in the civilian noninstitutional population

[1] For similar comparisons between the foreign-born and native populations in the United States, see Schmidley, Diane. 2002. *The Foreign Born Population in the United States: March 2002*. Current Population Reports, P20-539, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

[2] The data in this report are from the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household.

[3] The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably in this report to reflect the new terminology in the standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 that are to be implemented by January 1, 2003. For more information, see "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," *Federal Register*, Vol. 62, No. 280, October 30, 1997, pp. 58,782-58,790. In addition, being of a particular origin is determined by the respondent. For example, people of Mexican origin may be either born in Mexico or of Mexican heritage.

Figure 1.
**Hispanics by Origin: 2002**
(In percent)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

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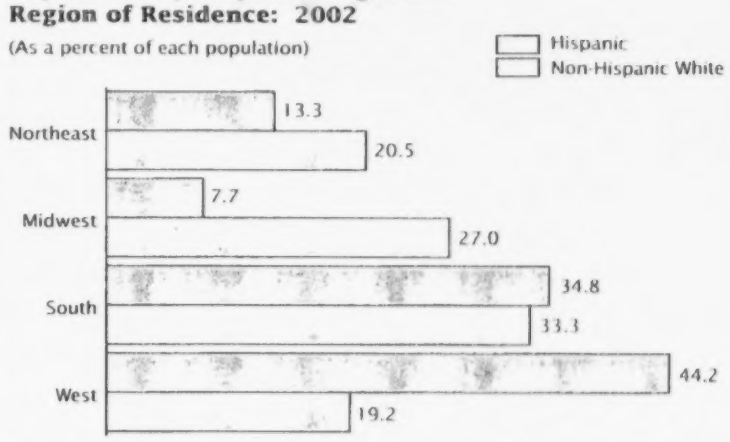
of the United States, representing 13.3 percent of the total.[4] Among the Hispanic population, two-thirds (66.9 percent) were of Mexican origin, 14.3 percent were Central and South American, 8.6 percent were Puerto Rican, 3.7 percent were Cuban, and the remaining 6.5 percent were of other Hispanic origins (see Figure 1).[5]

### Hispanics are more geographically concentrated than non-Hispanic Whites.

Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to reside in the West and the South and less likely to live in the Northeast and the Midwest.[6] In 2002, the regional distribution of the Hispanic population ranged from 44.2 percent in the West to 7.7 percent in the Midwest, while the distribution of non-Hispanic Whites ranged from 33.3 percent in the South to 19.2 percent in the West (see Figure 2).

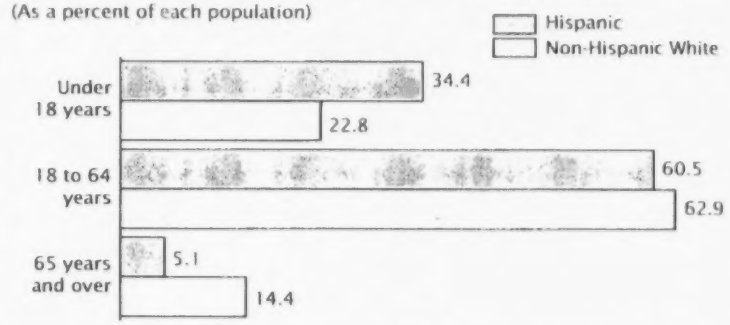
Latinos of Mexican origin were more likely to live in the West (54.6 percent) and the South (34.3 percent); Puerto Ricans were most likely to live in the Northeast (58.0 percent); and Cubans were highly concentrated in the South (75.1 percent). Most Central and South Americans were found in three of the four regions: the Northeast (31.5 percent), the South (34.0 percent), and the West (29.9 percent).[7]

Figure 2.
**Population by Hispanic Origin and Region of Residence: 2002**
(As a percent of each population)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 3.
**Population by Hispanic Origin and Age Group: 2002**
(As a percent of each population)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

### Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live inside central cities of metropolitan areas.

Nearly half of all Hispanics lived in central cities within a metropolitan area (45.6 percent) compared with slightly more than one-fifth of non-Hispanic Whites (21.1 percent).[8] In 2002, 45.7 percent of Hispanics

[4] Puerto Rico is not included in the Current Population Survey.

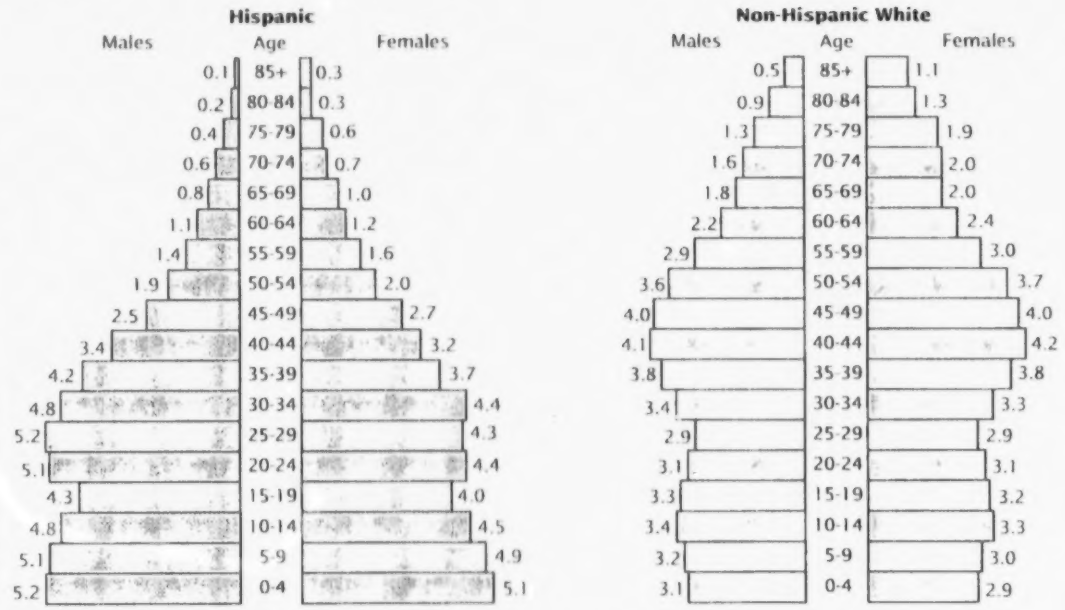
[5] The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[6] The four regions of the United States for which data are presented in this report are as follows: **Northeast**: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; **Midwest**: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; **South**: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; **West**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

[7] The proportion of Central and South Americans living in the Northeast does not differ statistically from the proportion of Central and South Americans living in the South and West. The proportion of Central and South Americans living in the Northeast does not differ statistically from the proportion of Mexicans living in the South. Additionally, there is no statistical difference in the proportion of Central and South Americans living in the South compared to the proportion of Mexicans living in the South.

[8] Tables with detailed geographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the Hispanic population are on the Census Bureau's Web site: *www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hispanic/ho02tabs.html*.

Figure 4.
**Population by Hispanic Origin, Age, and Sex: 2002**
(In percent)[1]




[1]Each bar represents the percent of the Hispanic (non-Hispanic White) population who were within the specified age group and of the specified sex.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

lived outside central cities but within a metropolitan area, compared with 56.8 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. The percentage of Hispanics living in nonmetropolitan areas (8.7 percent) was much smaller than the percentage of non-Hispanic Whites (22.1 percent). Among Latino groups, Puerto Ricans were more likely than other groups to live in a central city within a metropolitan area (57.4 percent), while Cubans were more likely than other groups to live outside the central city but within a metropolitan area (76.9 percent).

**Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be under age 18.**

In 2002, 34.4 percent of Hispanics were under 18, compared with 22.8 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Relatively few Latinos were 65 and older (5.1 percent), in contrast with non-Hispanic Whites (14.4 percent). In addition, a smaller proportion of Hispanics than non-Hispanic Whites were 18 to 64 (60.5 percent compared with 62.9 percent, respectively, see Figure 3); and conversely, a larger proportion of the Hispanic population than the non-Hispanic White population were 25 to 44: 33.2 percent compared with 28.4 percent, respectively. Among Hispanics, 14.3 percent were 45 to 64, while 25.7 percent of non-Hispanic Whites were these ages (see Figure 4).

Among Latinos, the Mexican-origin population had the highest proportion under age 18 (37.1 percent), and the Cuban origin population had the lowest (19.6 percent). The proportion 65 and older ranged from approximately 4.0 percent for Mexicans to 22.6 percent for Cubans.[9]

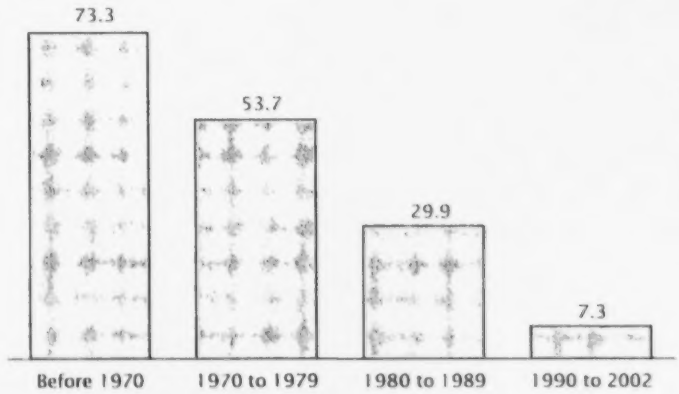
**Two in five Hispanics are foreign born.**

In 2002, 40.2 percent (or 15 million) of the Hispanic population in the United States was foreign born. Among the foreign-born Hispanic population in 2002, 52.1 percent entered the United States between 1990 and 2002, another 25.6 percent came in the 1980s, and the remainder (22.3 percent) entered before 1980.

[9] There is no statistical difference between the proportions 65 and older for Mexicans and Central and South Americans.

Although 73.3 percent of those who entered before 1970 had obtained citizenship by 2002, only 29.9 percent of those who entered between 1980 and 1989, and 7.3 percent of those who entered between 1990 and 2002 had become citizens by 2002 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5.
**U.S. Citizenship of the Foreign-Born Hispanic Population by Year of Entry: 2002**
(In percent)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

## FAMILY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND MARITAL STATUS

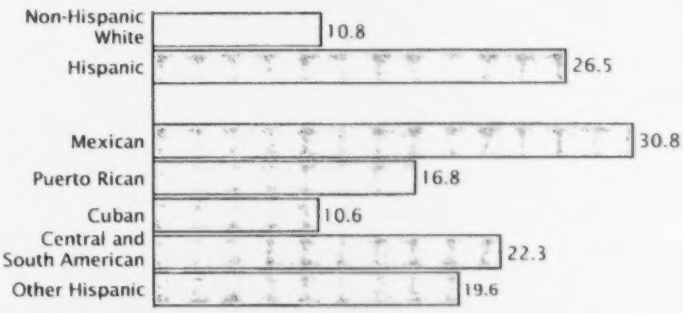
**Hispanics live in family households that tend to be larger than those of non-Hispanic Whites.**

In 2002, 26.5 percent of family households in which a Hispanic person was the householder consisted of five or more people.[10] In contrast, only 10.8 percent of non-Hispanic White family households were this large. Among Hispanic family households, Mexican family households were most likely to have five or more people (30.8 percent) (see Figure 6).

Family households with only two people represented 25.9 percent of Hispanic family households but 48.7 percent of non-Hispanic White family households. Among Hispanics, Cuban family households were most likely to have only two people (43.1 percent).

Among the population aged 15 years and older, Hispanics were more likely never to have been married than non-Hispanic Whites (36.3 percent compared with 24.5 percent, respectively), while non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to have been divorced than Hispanics (10.0 percent compared with 6.6 percent, respectively).

Figure 6.
**Family Households With Five or More People by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2002**
(In percent. Based on origin of householder)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

**More than two in five Hispanics aged 25 and older have not graduated from high school.**

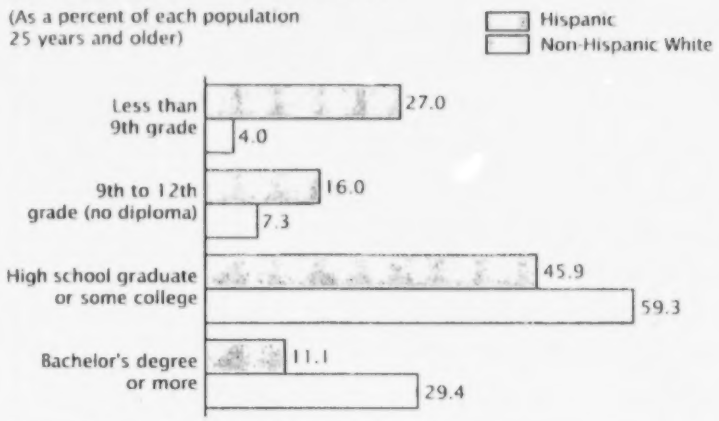
The Hispanic population aged 25 and older was less likely to have graduated from high school than non-Hispanic Whites (57.0 percent and 88.7 percent, respectively). In addition, more than one-quarter of Hispanics had less than a ninth-grade education (27.0 percent), compared with only 4.0 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. The proportion with a bachelor's degree or more was much lower for Hispanics (11.1 percent) than for non-Hispanic Whites (29.4 percent, see Figure 7).

[10] Family households consist of two or more people, at least one of whom is related to the householder (the person who owns or rents the housing unit). Hispanic family households have a Hispanic householder.

Figure 7.

**Population by Hispanic Origin and Educational Attainment: 2002**

(As a percent of each population 25 years and older)

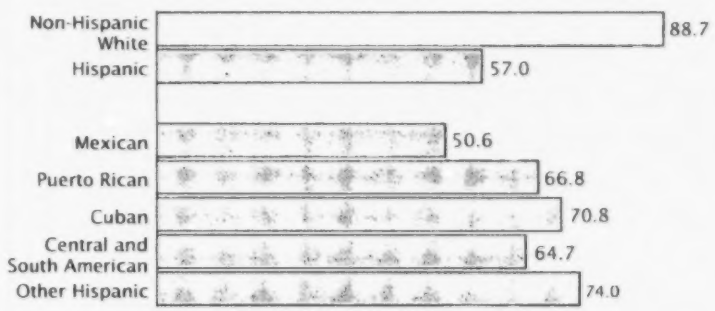



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 8.

**Population With at Least a High School Education by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2002**

(As percent of each population 25 years and older)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

### Educational attainment varies among Hispanics.

Among Latinos 25 years and older, other Hispanics, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Central and South Americans were more likely to have at least graduated from high school (74.0 percent, 66.8 percent, 70.8 percent, and 64.7 percent, respectively) than were Mexicans (50.6 percent, see Figure 8).[11] Similarly, the proportion that had attained at least a bachelor's degree ranged from 18.6 percent for Cubans, 17.3 percent for Central and South Americans, and 19.7 percent for other Hispanics to 7.6 percent for Mexicans.[12]

[11] The difference between Puerto Ricans and Central and South Americans is not statistically significant. In addition, the difference between Cubans and other Hispanics is not statistically significant.

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Hispanics are much more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be unemployed.

In March 2002, 8.1 percent of Hispanics in the civilian labor force aged 16 and older were unemployed, compared with only 5.1 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.[13] Among Latino groups, 8.4 percent of Mexicans, 9.6 percent of Puerto Ricans, 6.8 percent of Central and South Americans, 6.1 percent of Cubans, and 8.6 percent of other Hispanics were unemployed.[14]

### Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites have different occupational distributions.

In 2002, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to work in service occupations (22.1 percent and 11.6 percent,

[12] The difference between Cubans and Central and South Americans is not statistically significant. In addition, the difference between Cubans and other Hispanics is not statistically significant. There is also no significant difference between Central and South Americans and other Hispanics.

[13] Civilian labor force data shown in this report reflect characteristics of the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 16 and older for March 2002 and are not adjusted for seasonal changes. Data released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, may not agree entirely with data shown in this report because of differences in methodological procedures and their seasonal adjustment of the data.

[14] There is no significant difference in the proportion of Mexicans who were unemployed compared to Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and other Hispanics. In addition, there is no significant difference in the proportion of Puerto Ricans who were unemployed compared to Cubans and other Hispanics. The proportion of Cubans who were unemployed was not statistically significant from that of Central and South Americans and other Hispanics. Finally, there is no significant difference between Central and South Americans and other Hispanics.

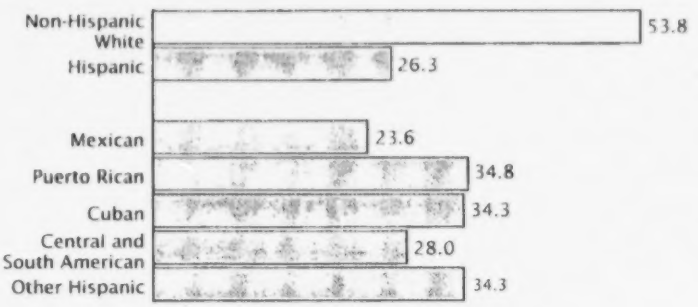
respectively).[15] In addition, Hispanics were twice as likely to be employed as operators and laborers than non-Hispanic Whites (20.8 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively). Conversely, only 14.2 percent of Hispanics were in managerial or professional occupations, compared with 35.1 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.[16] Among Latino groups, Central and South Americans were more likely than other groups to work in service occupations (27.3 percent), while Mexicans were less likely than other groups to work in managerial or professional occupations (11.9 percent).

### Hispanic workers earn less than non-Hispanic White workers.

Among full-time, year-round workers in 2002, 26.3 percent of Hispanics and 53.8 percent of non-Hispanic Whites earned $35,000 or more.[17] Among Latino full-time, year-round workers, Mexicans had the lowest proportion earning $35,000 or more (see Figure 9).

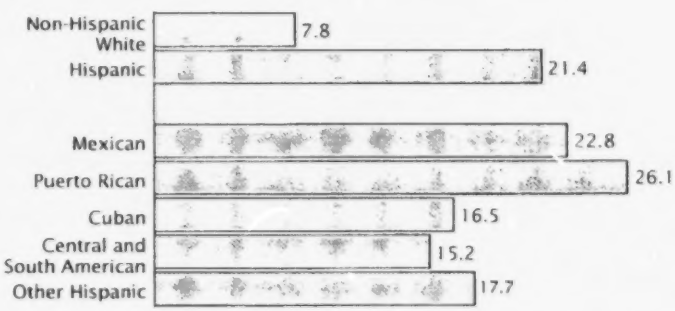
In addition, the proportion of workers making $50,000 or more was 12.4 percent for Hispanics, compared with 31.8 percent for non-Hispanic Whites. Mexicans had the lowest proportion of workers earning $50,000 or more (10.6 percent).

Figure 9.
**Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Annual Earnings of $35,000 or More by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2001**
(In percent)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 10.
**People Living Below the Poverty Level by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2001**
(In percent)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

### Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live in poverty.

In 2002, 21.4 percent of Hispanics were living in poverty, compared with 7.8 percent of non-Hispanic Whites[18] (see Figure 10). Hispanics represented 13.3 percent of the total population but constituted 24.3 percent of the population living in poverty. In addition, Hispanic children younger than 18 years of age were much more likely than non-Hispanic White children to be living in poverty (28.0 percent compared with 9.5 percent, respectively). Hispanic children represented 17.7 percent of all children in the United States but constituted 30.4 percent of all children in poverty.

[15] The occupational classification system used here and by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the one used in the 1990 Census of Population and is based largely on the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

[16] The proportion of Hispanics employed in service occupations was not statistically different from the proportion of Hispanics employed as operators and laborers.

[17] Data on earnings and poverty in this report refer to the calendar year before the survey. In this case, earnings information collected in March 2002 refer to calendar year 2001.

[18] Poverty status is determined through a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition (see Dalaker, Joseph, 2002. *Poverty in the United States: 2001*. Current Population Reports, P60-219; U.S. Census Bureau, or *www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty01.html*).

## SOURCE OF DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

## ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on source of the data and accuracy of the estimates including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to *www. bls. Census.gov/cps/ads/2002/S&A_02.pdf* or contact John Finamore of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at *dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov.*

## MORE INFORMATION

Twenty-one detailed tables from the March 2002 CPS are available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's Web site (*www.census.gov*). Once on the site, click on "H," then select "Hispanic: People." Choose "CPS March 2002" and click on "Data Tables." Data from previous years (1994-2001) are also available on this Web site.

To receive a paper version of these tables, send your request for "PPL-165, Profile of the Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2002," along with a check or money order in the amount of $26.50, payable to "Commerce-Census-88-00-9010," to U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call the Statistical Information Office at 301-763-2422. A copy of these tables will be made available to any existing Current Population Report P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report.

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## USER COMMENTS

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